

LBJ Film Blackout *Post 9-1-68*

By Rowland Evans and Robert Novak

A PLUSH, \$125,000 film on President Johnson, made by David Wolper Productions as a sentimental highlight for the Chicago Democratic National Convention, was canceled at the last minute because convention managers feared it might set off hostile

demonstrations, particularly in the New York and California delegations.

The film, tentatively entitled "Promises Made, Promises Kept," was financed by the Democratic National Committee, unlike the memorial tribute to the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (for which the Kennedy family and friends paid an estimated \$70,000).

The LBJ film was to have been shown with the President himself present at the International Amphitheater in Chicago. When Mr. Johnson at the last moment decided not to attend the volatile, incendiary convention, the film was discreetly canceled, without any announcements. It will now be sent to the LBJ Library as a permanent exhibit.

A footnote: Most pictures of the President disappeared from the walls of the Democratic National Committee, on orders of John Criswell, the outgoing National Committee treasurer and boss of the Chicago convention this past week. No one knows why, but the assumption is that Criswell wanted to keep them as mementos of his autocratic reign over the National Committee.

Political Bugging

THE SUPER-HEATED California contest for the U.S. Senate between Democrat Alan Cranston and Republican Max Rafferty has begun with the discovery by Cranston that his Los Angeles headquarters was bugged.

The Democrats are making no accusations and, indeed, have made no public disclosure of the electronic eavesdropping. But security measures have been tightened for what figures to be a long, mean campaign.

The Cranston camp became suspicious several weeks ago when inside strategy was apparently becoming known to Rafferty forces even before it was put into

effect. Cranston's proposals were being replied to by Rafferty at the very moment they were issued.

Suspicious, Cranston's managers called the telephone company to check its equipment. It found nothing amiss. Still alarmed, Cranston hired a private detective, who discovered an electronic eavesdropping device in the power company line to the Los Angeles headquarters.

Police have informed Cranston there are no grounds for prosecution.

Adlai and Daley

ON TOP of his other troubles during the Democratic National Convention, Mayor Richard J. Daley of Chicago was infuriated by the independent stance taken by State Treasurer Adlai Stevenson III.

Daley and Stevenson, increasingly bitter foes inside the Illinois Democratic Party, did agree on Hubert Humphrey for the nomination (though Stevenson endorsed him weeks earlier than Daley wanted). But on just about every issue that went to the convention floor—credentials fights over the seating of Southern delegations, the Vietnam plank—Stevenson took the liberal position and opposed Daley.

The Old Nixon

THE OTHERWISE triumphant Chicago opening of Richard M. Nixon's 1968 general election campaign was marred by staff confusion and a certain insensitivity of the candidate reminiscent of his 1960 campaign.

Nixon's advance men had told Illinois Republicans that if there was a good crowd, Nixon would say a few words in front of the Sheraton-Blackstone Hotel following his midday procession from the airport.

But his advance men hadn't checked with Nixon. In keeping with his determination to limit campaign appearances and avoid fatigue, he refused to say a word to the disappointed crowd.

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